

# STUDENT INFORMATION

## WHAT IS MINDSHOP EXCELLENCE?

Mindshop Excellence is the community purpose of the Mindshop organisation – it's our way of giving back to the community by providing a valuable learning opportunity to future young leaders. It is a structured work place learning program, in place of the traditional work experience, where small groups of up to six Year 10 or Year 11 (15/16 year old) students are placed into a host organisation for one week. Acting as company 'executives' for the week, the group are given a real issue by the host company and using powerful problem solving tools, taught to the students on Day 1 of the program by an experienced Mindshop Advisor, find solutions to the issue as a team. On the final day of the program, students present their findings and recommendations to the host company's management, team, school representatives and parents. Following the presentation, students receive a certificate which is a great inclusion for their CV.

For students unable to participate in the core program, they can learn the same tools and processes through an online problem-solving course and apply the tools to a real issue of importance to the student.

## OBJECTIVES

It is amazing to see the personal growth of students in just one week. They learn:

- Team work
- Presentation skills
- Researching skills
- Time Management
- Problem Solving
- How to challenge their way of thinking
- The feeling of making a difference
- How businesses work and gain a greater understanding of working in the REAL world!

## IMPACT

- Over 5,000 students involved since the first program ran in 1993 in Melbourne, Australia
- Schools and businesses globally eager to become involved
- Strong relationships and partnerships forged as a result of involvement of schools with local businesses and community groups
- Countless major issues within the host organisations resolved by the team of students

## WHY PARTICIPATE IN MINDSHOP EXCELLENCE?

Mindshop Excellence aims to provide you with a learning experience that will not only help develop your problem solving ability, time management skills, leadership skills, and give you a real insight into a workplace, but is also fun! In the traditional 5 day face to face program, you'll become a company 'executive' and give your host company a practical and innovative plan to address the issue they have given you to work on for the week. The best part of the week is presenting all your hard work and solutions to your peers, teachers, parents and host company on the final day of the program.

## PAST STUDENT FEEDBACK:

*"Mindshop Excellence has shown me how it is crucial to have "real world" experience and knowledge in any organisation and this will take you as far or further than any textbook knowledge. Overall, the program has provided me with many more opportunities than I could have ever imagined."*

**Mindshop Excellence student**

*"I gained problem-solving skills and critical thinking skills. I also learned how to keep on task and work in a group."*

**Mindshop Excellence student**

*"The program, helped me to improve my communication and collaboration skills. My team allowed me to take a role in leadership, allowing for me to demonstrate and work on my leadership quality. The program also allowed me to gain an appreciation for the backbones of business, this allowed me to open my eyes and realise that all jobs are equal no one job is more important than another especially in teamwork."*

**Mindshop Excellence student**

*"The Mindshop Excellence program is an amazing experience that enhances your problem-solving skills and working as a team to get through a tough situation."*

**Mindshop Excellence student**



## EXAMPLE 5 DAY ROADMAP

### DAY 1:

- Groups are taught a variety of problem-solving tools by their Mindshop Excellence Advisor
- Groups are shown the importance of working in teams and elect a team leader
- Groups are given a brief OHS induction and guided tour of the host company and introduced to staff members
- At the **end of the day**, the group are given an important challenge and asked to solve it by a manager from the host company. One page scoping document provided to the team.

### DAY 2:

- Groups spend the day discovering where the host company is NOW in relation to the challenge given to them
- Groups commence researching and gathering data
- Groups start documenting their findings into their written report and PowerPoint presentation

### DAY 3:

- Using the visioning tools, groups work out WHERE they would like their host company to be in relation to the challenge given to them
- Groups commence surveying and interviewing if necessary
- Groups continue to feed their findings into their written report and presentation

### DAY 4:

- Groups will now have collected enough data to determine HOW the company should solve the challenge using the recommendations the students have identified
- Groups complete their written report and presentation

### DAY 5:

- Groups spend the morning rehearsing their presentation and finalizing their written report
- Typically in the early afternoon, all group members will present their findings to the host organization, their Advisor, teachers from their school and their parents

## STUDENT FAQs

### WHAT DO STUDENTS NEED TO PROVIDE?

- Present yourself in attire suitable to the environment in which you will be working
- Be prepared to bring your own lunch and snacks with you
- To develop their solution, the student team should bring one or two laptops / tablets for research, report and presentation preparation. Workbooks, pens and paper will be supplied.
- Come with an open mind – ready for a fun and challenging week

### HOW MANY HOURS COMMITMENT IS THE PROGRAM?

Students should work a typical working day – usually around 9 or 10am until around 3 or 4pm.

## STUDENT FAQs CONTINUED

### **WHAT DO STUDENTS WEAR WHILE ATTENDING THE CORE 5 DAY FACE TO FACE PROGRAM?**

Dress code is generally recommended to be neat casual, unless other attire is stipulated by the host or school. Jeans and sweaters are fine. For the final presentation on Friday, we usually suggest the team should wear school uniform but that is always open for discussion.

### **I'M PARTICIPATING IN A PROGRAM, WHAT SHOULD I DO TO PREPARE?**

Reading this information pack to familiarise yourself with what the program is and what to expect is all that is requested from you. There is some other great content you could explore on our website (including videos of past programs) through [www.mindshopexcellence.com](http://www.mindshopexcellence.com)

### **AM I EXPECTED TO COMPLETE ANY 'HOMEWORK' DURING THE WEEK OF THE PROGRAM**

There may be times you need to complete some work in the evening like working on collating survey results, typing up solutions, or creating your PowerPoint. We suggest in the afternoon of each day that your group's team leader assign tasks, relevant to your project, for you to complete before the next day.

### **WHAT IF I CAN'T PARTICIPATE IN THE CORE 5 DAY FACE TO FACE PROGRAM?**

To allow us to support more students like yourself, without the barriers of distance or time required for the traditional face to face program, Mindshop designed an online training course to replicate the same learning experience to help you to build capability in problem solving skills, time management, goal setting and critical thinking. You'll be guided on selecting a key issue or opportunity as your focus for the course and formulate solutions using the tools which will culminate in the development of a simple one page plan you can implement right away. These tools have application anywhere, your personal life, your school and if relevant, your workplace. If you'd like access to this course, please contact [excellence@mindshop.com](mailto:excellence@mindshop.com)

